

Indiana State Approved Course Titles and Descriptions

Indiana Department of Education
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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This November 2008 edition of the Indiana Department of Education's State Approved Course Titles and Descriptions has undergone extensive revision in order to improve clarity and ease of use.

Changes include:

- A new Journalism course description and the allowance, in certain circumstances, for two credits of Journalism to count as two credits of the General Diploma
- Comparative Government and Politics, AP, no longer fulfills two credits of the Government requirement for graduation.
- The addition of a course description for Community Service in the Multidisciplinary course titles and descriptions section.
- Minor word changes in Advanced Placement course descriptions and other courses.

We welcome your recommendations and corrections.

Course descriptions provide brief statements of the content of kindergarten, elementary, middle level, and high school courses. These descriptions are intended to assist schools in communicating, in a broad context, the content and Academic Standards of Indiana state approved course titles.

Course descriptions also serve as category descriptions for the state textbook adoption process. Code numbers listed for each course description should be used when reporting courses on Indiana Department of Education documents.

Instructional decisions related to curriculum selection and development, implementation, and assessment are left to local school corporations. In fact, Indiana schools may explore, develop, and implement activities and programs that go beyond these descriptions as they strive to prepare their students for life in an ever-changing society. Indiana State Board of Education rules and the school improvement plan required by Public Law 221 provide avenues for gaining approval of well-planned, nonstandard programs and courses. School corporations may apply for a non-standard course waiver if the course or program is not listed in this document.

Please note these other important details:

- The course descriptions in this document are based upon State Board approved course titles.
- Course descriptions provide guidance for Indiana schools as they develop instructional strategies, classroom resources, and revise the descriptions to meet local needs. In order to meet minimum graduation requirements, the expectations of Core 40, and the requirements of the Academic Honors and Technical Honors diplomas, course descriptions must be consistent with the Academic Standards for each course.
- The high school courses described in this manual, along with approved non-standard courses, are the only courses that may be offered for high school credit to meet the graduation requirements established by the Indiana State Board of Education.
- The maximum number of credits that may be granted for each course is listed in the

course description bullets. Generally, one credit is awarded per semester except as noted. Course description bullets identify those courses in which students may receive credit for successive semesters of instruction.

- Minimum and recommended prerequisites are listed for some courses. Local schools and districts may require additional prerequisites.
- Course abbreviations are suggested only and generally contain 10-12 characters.
- Credit, as defined by State Board rule, must consist of a minimum of two hundred fifty (250) minutes of instruction per week for one (1) semester for a school operating on a traditional schedule; a minimum of eighty-five (85) minutes of instruction per class period, exclusive of passing time, for a school operating on a block schedule; or a minimum of seventy (70) minutes of instruction per class period, exclusive of passing time, for a school trimester schedule.
- A laboratory course, identified by (L) in these course descriptions, is one in which a “minimum of twenty-five percent (25%) of the total instructional time is devoted to laboratory activities. Laboratory activities are those activities in which the pupil personally uses appropriate procedures and equipment in accomplishing that learning task.”
- Schools may designate a course as “Honors” when the course content is significantly more rigorous than the state approved course. Honors-level courses must be standards-based, have defined criteria for student admission to the course as well as clear expectations of student outcomes, and include a culminating honors project that reflects understanding of the Honors course content. The course description should reflect the ‘honors’ nature of the course and course titles should include an “H” or the word “Honors” in the title.
- Elementary and middle school (Grades K-8) course descriptions in the areas of Fine Arts, World Language, Health, Language Arts, and Physical Education are defined by grade clusters rather than by grade level, such as, K-3, 4-6, 6, 7, and 8 or 7 and 8. It should be noted that the kindergarten curriculum in all subject areas must include developmentally appropriate activities in the areas of language experiences, creative experiences, personal growth experiences, social living experiences, environmental and science experiences, and mathematical experiences. These experiences should be integrated, into the various subject areas, across the curriculum.
- The Indiana State Board of Education no longer restricts “credit” to course work completed in Grades 9 through 12. Students who complete courses before entering Grade 9 may earn credit for those courses if each course is equivalent to its high school counterpart. Local policies and procedures should be developed to govern credit for high school courses taught below grade nine. Multiple credits may not be awarded for the same course unless the course description permits multiple credits to be awarded.
- Course titles and descriptions within Cooperative Education and International Baccalaureate subject areas may also appear under other subject areas where appropriate.

Other helpful documents, available on our Website, include:

- Indiana's Academic Standards - <http://www.doe.in.gov/asap/academicstandards.html>
- Indiana State Approved Course Titles and Descriptions - <http://doe.in.gov/publications/courses.html>
- Teaching Requirements by Subject and Grade Level (Assignment Code Table) - <http://www.doe.in.gov/dps/licensing/assignmentcode/welcome.html>
- Subject and Level Code List - http://www.doe.in.gov/stn/pdf/subject-and-level_codebook.pdf
- CTE Funding Crosswalk with CIP Codes - http://www.doe.state.in.us/octe/pdf/cip_0809crosswalk.pdf
- Online and Distance Education Course Policy - http://www.doe.in.gov/alted/pdf/memo_computer-based_courseware.pdf
- Instructional Time Q & A - <http://www.doe.in.gov/accreditation/docs/0809-FAQ-InstTime.pdf>

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